

brigade organized in the poorer wards of the city, two months ago took 120 of the boys, with their neat uniforms and wooden guns, and forty girls of an auxiliary organization, for a summer's residence on a farm in Tompkins county. To manage 160 boys and girls accustomed to the freedom of New York streets, was no small undertaking, but Mr. George resolved that an indispensable condition was the hearty co-operation of the youngsters themselves; and he then resolved to set up a republic and make of the fresh air camp a school of instruction in social and political economy. The plan was explained and the organization of the republic was soon effected. The constitution was modeled on that of the United States, with modifications suited to the exceptional character of the young republic. Mr. George was unanimously elected president; a house of representatives was elected every week and a senate of the older boys every fortnight. Judges and policemen were also provided, and though every boy at first wanted to be a policeman, the selections for the position were made on the civil service plan and educational qualifications were strictly required, so there was a thinning out of candidates and a determination among the disqualified to pay more attention to school studies hereafter. The republic was run upon a strictly cash basis. Salaries were paid all the officials and no member of the community worked without remuneration or could get anything without paying for it. It was an industrial farm. The boys worked in the fields, did the carpentering required and performed all the "men's work;" the community needed, while the girls did the cooking and other housework, mended the clothes and were the "mothers, wives and maids" of the republic. All services were paid for according to an established scale of wages, but in buying and selling there was an opportunity given for the working of the law of supply and demand. The financial transactions of the republic, public and private, were transacted in paper money, issued by the government and redeemable in the products of the farm. When the citizen received his wages he could spend it as he pleased or could deposit it in the national bank of the republic, which paid 3 per cent interest. Of course there were thrifty and spendthrift individuals, some accumulating tidy sums represented in the final liquidation by supplies of fruit and vegetables that were carried in triumph to their humble city homes, while others spent their paper cash in riotous living and then came on the community as paupers. That evil was promptly met. A special meeting of the legislature was called and a law passed that made work a pre-requisite to eating. The pauper was required to repay the republic for its aid by working, and only got bread and water for his subsistence. Under such a stimulus the lazy acquired habits of industry.

The experiment throughout has been successful beyond the anticipations of its projector. The boys and girls learned to know the value of work and of money. They were also instructed by experience in the principles of our government and the

methods of administration, and had practiced demonstrations of the advantages of good laws and competent officials to administer them.

#### CHOLERA.

There have been recent fears of a fresh invasion of cholera, and this time, for a wonder, the curse is expected from the West instead of the East. At no time in the history of the scourge in America has it ever made its way across the Pacific. Its brief but sad career in the United States is not difficult to remember. It came from Ireland to Quebec in 1832; from Havre to New Orleans in 1848; from England to New York in 1854, and again in 1865; from Havre to New Orleans in 1873.

But the Pacific coast has been making great headway during the last quarter of a century; its commerce has grown with almost fabulous rapidity, and in many respects it seems far nearer to us than ever before. Besides all that, the recent developments in eastern Asia have built up a feeling of extraordinary relationship if not friendship with the conquering race; and if among the many benefits that are expected from a close business connection with the Asiatic peoples, we should also derive an occasional plague of cholera, why it would only be reciprocity in a more extended form and need not in any way be wondered at. Meanwhile the authorities at San Francisco and other Pacific ports confidently deny that there is any danger, or that the regulations for the suppression of the menace have been or will be in any degree relaxed.

#### THE CANALRE ROOT.

Canalre culture is a subject in which some of the people of Utah have taken great interest lately. It is now reported that eastern tanneries that have tried the root have found that it gives perfect satisfaction and they are therefore ready to make contracts for all that can be furnished them.

The Phoenix, Arizona, *Herald* says that for several months past a party of Eastern capitalists headed by Professor Gully, have been at work on the proposition of raising and shipping canalre from Arizona and Southern California. The first idea of the company was to ship the roots entire to the East, where they would be properly prepared for the use of the tanneries, but later experiments dispelled that idea.

About a month ago a small band machine which would cut the roots into minced pieces was brought to Phoenix from Philadelphia and some of the roots chopped up. This was found to be unsatisfactory, and a larger machine of the same kind to be operated by steam was sent for. This machine was altered by a local machinist so that instead of mincing the root it would shave it into thin slices, which was the most satisfactory way of preparing the root. The shavings were then placed in a large cylinder and pressed by horse-power into bales, in which way it was shipped East.

The company at once secured control of 2,000 acres of land on the south side of the river, which will at once be planted with canalre, as will also a 3,000 acre tract which has been secured in California. In the meantime a large force of men are kept at work digging the wild root, which is being sliced, baled and shipped.

The company has been operating their machinery at the Five Points corral, this city, until recently, when it was moved across the river, where a large amount of canalre has been pulled up, waiting treatment.

The machinery now used is small though very effective, the slicer handling 300 pounds in two minutes at one run last week. It will be replaced by more effective machinery as soon as the land planted becomes productive, and will be placed in a large factory to be erected on the land across the river.

When the merit of the canalre root has been established and an industry of so great importance is being built up, Utah should certainly be able to procure her share of the trade. A correspondent to the News, on another page, deals with the same subject.

#### WAR WITH SPAIN.

Is war between the United States and Spain among the possibilities of a near future? A dispatch from Washington says enough of the secrets of the navy department have come to public knowledge to justify the belief that President Cleveland seriously anticipates such an eventuality. The state and navy departments have displayed unusual activity lately, and the surmise is that Cuban affairs are the cause of it. It is alleged that the authorities in Washington have received exhaustive reports on the facilities for landing troops on the island, to be had ready at hand in case intervention in the Cuban contest should be deemed necessary or desirable.

Notwithstanding the apparent minuteness with which the subject is treated in the dispatch, it is safe to say that war with Spain in the near future is extremely improbable. That country is not going to open hostilities against the United States, as long as she is unable to hold her own against a handful of rebels armed with ancient-fashioned machetes, and otherwise but poorly equipped. To do so would be equal to committing suicide, unless, indeed, some other power is backing her—that is, borrowing her paws for the purpose of raking the chestnuts out of the fire—an highly improbable supposition. Nor is the United States likely to open war upon Spain on account of Cuba, or in order to collect the Mora claim.

Perhaps the dispatch is correctly considered merely an attempt on the part of somebody to ascertain the public feeling in this country as to the recognition of the Cuban rebels as belligerents, a subject with which the government will have to deal in the near future, and on which, so far, there is great unanimity of sentiment in favor of the insurgents. Consistently this country cannot but sympathize with the struggles all over the world for the establishment of the principles under which the United